Remarks:

Applicants (hereinafter, Applicant) hereby request reconsideration of the application.

Applicant notes (in item 2) the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). The Examiner noted that Applicant has not filed a certified copy of the priority application as required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d). A certified copy of the priority application was filed with the Amendment mailed December 26, 2001. It is assumed that it was destroyed during the irradiation process. Another certified copy will be obtained.

Claims 1-11 are now in the application.

In item 4 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 1-11 have been rejected as being obvious over Shaffer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,185,290 B1) (hereinafter, "Shaffer") under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 calls for, inter alia, a telecommunication system having a remote administration function, comprising:

a telecommunications apparatus defining a virtual terminal with properties of a terminal with administration authorization; and

a remote computer connected to said telecommunications apparatus, and a data stream to and from said virtual terminal being diverted to said remote computer.

(Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, in the *present invention*, a **virtual terminal** having the properties of a terminal with **administration authorization** is defined. The data stream (to and from the *virtual terminal*) is diverted to a remote computer (PC) connected to the telecommunication system.

The **Shaffer** reference discloses a one number, multi-application, intelligent call processing system providing

service benefits to a caller, a servicing location and/or a vanity number advertiser during a call, parallel to the call and/or post call in an integrated common architecture. To provide these benefits, the system utilizes Voice Response Unit (VRU) technology with the national telecommunications network connected via Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) to a virtual telephone number database containing a nation-wide master list of telephone numbers with thousands of attribute data items associated by Spatial Key linkage to each telephone number.

There, a caller dials a selected telephone number to request information and/or services. Based on the number dialed, a caller or network-provided 10 digit telephone number and VRU prompted for and received-caller input, the system retrieves the application requested data from the virtual telephone number database. The application uses the retrieved information to direct the VRU to speak selected retrieved information to the caller that is desired by the caller or needs to be verified by the caller, to automatically connect the caller with a servicing location whose service area can be geographically defined as any size or shape and encompasses the caller provided telephone number's location.

In contrast, the telecommunication system of the present invention includes a virtual end device and a remote computer; the characteristics of an administrative end device are assigned to the virtual end device. A data flow to and from the virtual end device is diverted to the remote computer (PC).

Further, Applicant cannot follow the Examiner's argumentation (in items 5 and 6 of the Office action), since the cited text passages of *Shaffer* do not show any context in relation to the object of the instant application.

Applicant points out that the invention is based on two core concepts, as explained below:

(1) remote administration of a telecommunication system; and

(2) providing a *virtual end device* with the characteristics of an *administrative end device*, whereby a data flow to and from the virtual end device is diverted to a remote computer, so that an administration of the telecommunication system via the remote computer is enabled.

Re: concept 1

The Examiner states that a "remote computer with a message interpreter and emulator providing an interface and

functionality of the terminal with administration authorization" is disclosed by col. 27, line 50 to col. 28, line 13 of Shaffer. However, what is disclosed there is a description of the *types* of end devices of the caller locations. A terminal with administration authorization is **not** disclosed in the cited text passage. An *administration authorization* in the instant application is an authorization for changing data in an internal database of the telecommunication system.

Further, the Examiner states that a "remote administration function via a service center" is disclosed by col. 21, lines 10-16 and 35-41; and col. 24, lines 56-62 of Shaffer. However, the cited text passages disclose different databases, which must be updated when the data change. *Shaffer* does not disclose how the update is done. It does not contain any information regarding a "remote administration with a remote computer" and a "virtual end device".

Re concept 2

Applicant believes that Shaffer does not teach or suggest a virtual end device. In contrast, the instant application clearly discloses and claims "a telecommunications apparatus defining a virtual terminal with properties of a terminal with administration authorization; and a remote computer connected to said telecommunications apparatus, and a data stream to and

from said virtual terminal being diverted to said remote computer". Accordingly, the *present invention* provides *a virtual end device* with the characteristics of an administrative end device. The data flow to and from the virtual end device is diverted to a remote computer, so that an administration of the telecommunication system via the remote computer is enabled.

Clearly, the reference does not show a "*telecommunications apparatus defining a virtual terminal with properties of a terminal with administration authorization; and a remote computer connected to said telecommunications apparatus, and a data stream to and from said virtual terminal being diverted to said remote computer*", as recited in claim 1 of the instant application (emphasis added). Thus, neither can the specific combination of the aforementioned limitations be shown.

In other words, the features including the limitations "*a telecommunications apparatus defining a virtual terminal with properties of a terminal with administration authorization*", *and* "*a remote computer connected to said telecommunications apparatus, and a data stream to and from said virtual terminal being diverted to said remote computer*", as recited in claim 1, attain the present invention's objectives and are <u>not taught or suggested</u> by the reference, whether taken alone or in any combination (emphasis added).

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of $110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and

Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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